		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
2	*Cold Storage*			
1	Madhya Pradesh	131.20	240.40	251.70
2	Orissa	0.00	63.00	24.75
3	Tamil Nadu	52.25	0.00	0.00
4	West Bengal	23.89	38.65	257.97
5	Karnataka	73.88	0.00	39.74
	TOTAL	281.22	342.05	574.16

Increase in Prices of Fertilizers

2490. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY. Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have raised the prices of fertilizers; if so, the extent thereof;

(b) the reasons for increase in prices;

(c) whether Government propose to withdraw the hike in prices; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Urea is the only controlled fertiliser whose price etc. are regulated by the Government. The Price of Urea has been increased from Rs. 3660/- per MT to Rs. 4000/- per MT with effect from 29th January, 1999. The increase was warranted both from the point of view of fiscal sustainability and balanced nutrient application.

(c) and (d) As the urea price rise was warranted both from fiscal and agronomic considerations and it is not likely to have any significant adverse effect, it is not proposed to withdraw the hike in price of urea.

Financial Assistance for Crop Damage

2491. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received any demand for financial assistance and relief from the State Governments in regard to damage caused to the crops on account of untimely rain and other natural calamities in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what area the details of the relief provided to each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b)The entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1998-99 amounting to Rs. 996.11 crore has been released to all the State Governments for undertaking relief & rehabilitation measures in the wake off natural calamities. In addition to CRF assistance is provided to States from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) for calamities of rare severity. The requirements projected by the States during 1998-99 for assistance from NFCR is indicated below:-

(Rs. in crore)

1.	Andra Pradesh	heavy rains/floods/cycline	600.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	rains/landslides	200.23
3.	Assam	floods	1001.98
4.	Bihar	floods	1003.75
5.	Gujarat	cyclone/floods	810.65
6.	Haryana	untimely rains	757.29
7.	Himachal Pradesh	heavy rains/floods	266.06
8.	Karnataka	heavy rains/floods	1352.13
9.	Kerala	drought/floods	1499.63
10	Madhya Pradesh	drought	251.34
11	Maharashra	heavy rains/floods	152.26
12	Orissa	drought	445.59
13	Punjab	untimely rains	1140.60
14	Rajasthan	drought	959.62
15	Sikkim	floods/landslides	141.41
16	Tripura	floods	30.11
17	Uttar Pradesh	floods/landslides	2254.30
18	West Bengal	floods/landslides	804.93

(c) In the meeting held on 15.3.1999, the National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) approved a total assistance of Rs. 497.10 crore from the NFCR for release to the following States:-

(Rs. in crore)

1. Andra Pradesh	Heavy rains/floods	26.50
2. Arunachal Pradesh	rains/landslides	13.47
3. Assam	floods	59.90
4. Bihar	floods	11.45
5. Gujarat	Cyclone	55.35
6. Haryana	Untimely rains	13.27
7. Karnataka	pest attack/floods	49.98
8. Madhya Pradesh	excessive rains	35.00
9. Rajasthan	drought	21.98
10 Sikkim	floods/landslides	7.67
11 Tripura	floods	5.05
12 Uttar Pradesh	floods/landslides	131.15
13 West Bengal	floods/landslides	66.33
	TOTAL:	497.10

Production of Palm Oil

2492. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is enough potentiality for production of palm oil in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether Government is going *to* set up a processing plant for the palm oil in the State;

(c) if so, where; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) An area of 61,000 hectares has been identified by an expert committee as suitable for cultivation of oil palm in Gujarat,

(b) to (d) under the scheme of Post Harvest Technology being implemented by the Technology Mission on Oil-seeds, Pulses and Maize, a processing unit with a capacity of 2.5 Ten oil palm FFB (Fresh Fruit Bunches) per hour is proposed to be set up in Gujarat. The location of the unit has not been finalised so far.

Location Specific Crop Variety

2493. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a plan to stress location specific crop varieties;

(b) if so, the salient aspects of a location specific crop strategy;

(c) what steps have been identified for Andhra Pradesh under the strategy;

(d) whether any financial help will be extended to State to implement this strategy; and

(e) the full details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council for Agricultural Research has designed and developed "All India Coordinated Research Projects" (AICRP) for coordinating and developing location specific crop varieties and technologies for increasing the productivity and production of all important crops namely wheat, rice, pulses, oilseeds, millets and commercial/cash crops. The above projects are implemented through